

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/553,023
Reply to Office Action dated January 8, 2008

APR 08 2008

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A holding furnace for light molten baths, ~~with a metering chamber and a conveying tube, the holding furnace~~ comprising:

a metering chamber;

a conveying tube;

a riser;

an application site;

a valve rod;

a sealable outlet opening, which empties into [[a]] the riser, with which the molten bath is meterable to the application site,

wherein the outlet opening is actively sealable with [[a]] the valve rod, and wherein the metering chamber with the conveying tube is rotatably and tiltably mounted in the holding furnace.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/553,023
Reply to Office Action dated January 8, 2008

2. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, wherein further comprising an expansion bellows is used to drive the valve rod in a gastight and heat-resistant manner.
3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, further comprising scanning electrodes wherein the scanning electrodes can be are actively retracted retractable while filling the metering chamber after a melt surface has been scanned.
4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 3, further comprising an expansion bellow, wherein [[an]] the expansion bellows is used to drive the return motion of the scanning electrodes in a gastight and heat-resistant manner.
5. (CANCELLED)
6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 3, further comprising a spillway in the metering chamber, and scanning electrodes; wherein the melt surface can be scanned before the a spillway is reached.
7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, further comprising an actively actuated inlet valve for introducing wherein metal melt is introduced into the metering chamber by an actively actuated or passive inlet valve.
8. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, further comprising a concentric arrangement of a turning arm and a tilting ring, wherein the concentric arrangement achieves a maximum isolation of the metering chamber filled with molten bath.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/553,023
Reply to Office Action dated January 8, 2008

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, wherein the molten bath can be transferred from the metering chamber via the riser and into a casting groove, a tube system, a casting chamber or a casting mold by pressurization with an inert gas.

10-11. (CANCELLED)

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The holding furnace according to claim 1, wherein the conveying tube has a docking unit provided with a positioning aid.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The holding furnace according to claim 12, wherein the positioning aid ~~is designed as~~ comprises a spherical cap.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A metering device on a holding furnace according to claim 12, wherein a melt transfer path after the docking unit is insulated by a ceramic bushing, which is inserted in a replaceable wearing bushing in a casting chamber.

15. (NEW) The holding furnace according to claim 1, further comprising a passive inlet valve for introducing metal melt into the metering chamber.